

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 ABF-01 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NSF-04 HEW-08 AGR-20

NASA-04 SMI-01 DODE-00 COME-00 INT-08 HUD-02 LOC-01

EPA-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00

SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /141 W

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O R 181600Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6779

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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TAGS: OSCI AFIN ABUD TECH YO

SUBJ: US-YUGOSLAV JOINT BOARD ON SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL
COOPERATION

REF A, STATE 133521 B, STATE 133793

SUMMARY. US-YUGOSLAV JOINT BOARD REACHED AGREEMENT ON MOST AGENDA
ITEMS JULY 17 AND BEGAN PROJECT REVIEWS TODAY. U.S. SIDE NOTED THAT
AGREED AND PENDING PROJECTS WHICH WERE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT
ON THE BASIS OF MAY MEETING TOTALLED ND 248-MILLION WHEREAS
PROJECTED DEPOSITS TO THE JOINT FUND AMOUNTED TO ONLY ND 240-
MILLION. IF THE PROPOSED NEW PROJECTS WERE ALSO ADDED THE SITUATION
WOULD BECOME EVEN WORSE. IT WAS AGREED TO CONTINUE THE DETAILED
PROJECT REVIEW IN A WORKING GROUP AND TO RETURN TO THIS ISSUE
JULY 19 WHEN THE BOARD CONVENES. AT THIS STAGE, WE DO NOT SEE HOW
WE CAN MAKE FORMAL COMMITMENT ON EVEN THOSE PROJECTS ON
DEPARTMENT'S "AGREED AND PENDING" LISTS SINCE THE TOTAL VALUE
EXCEEDS AVAILABLE RESOURCES. OUR INTENT IS TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE
ON A NUMBER OF PROJECTS AND MAKE EMERGENCY RELEASES FOR SOME
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PROJECTS IN 1973. END SUMMARY.

1. US-YUGOSLAV JOINT BOARD ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION HELD INITIAL MEETINGS JULY 17 AND 18 TO DISCUSS AGENDA ITEMS (REFTEL A). SCHEDULE OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE CALL BY BOARD ON FEC (CABINET) MEMBER TRPE JAKOVLEVSKI, AMBASSADOR KRSTO BULACIC, DIRECTOR, FAISECTC; LUNCHEON HOSTED BY BOARD CHAIRMAN PRIKMAJER AND DINNER HOSTED BY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF MEETINGS VERY CORDIAL WITH LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.

2. FOLLOWING HIGHLIGHTS:

A. BOARD CHAIRMAN: DR. EDO PRIKMAJER NOMINATED BY THE U.S. SIDE FOR ONE YEAR, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED.

B. DRAFT OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES: ONLY TWO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES. U.S. MEMBERS NOTED THE DRAFT PROCEDURES DID NOT CLEARLY COVER THE APPROVAL OF PROJECTS IN PRINCIPLE WHICH DID NOT IN ITSELF CONSTITUTE LEGALLY BINDING FINANCIAL OBLIGATION. WE NOTED NECESSITY TO AMEND PROCEDURES TO PERMIT BOARD APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR FINANCING PLANNING PURPOSES AND TO MAKE A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN ACTIONS PROVIDING OBLIGATION OR EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY AND THOSE CONSTITUTING A PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING. ACCORDINGLY, THE BOARD CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH WHICH WAS ADDED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

"PARA 6: PROJECTS MAY BE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE BOARD, SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. SUCH A COMMITMENT SHALL BE FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING ONLY AND SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A LEGALLY BINDING OBLIGATION."

FAISECTC HAD EARLIER INDICATED THE NEED FOR TIGHTER CONTROLS ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. ACCORDINGLY, THE BOARD CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING WHICH REPLACES ITEM 14 IN DEPARTMENT'S DRAFT:

"PARA 15. THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY AND FAISECTC SHALL APPROVE IN ADVANCE PLANNED VISITS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO YUGOSLAVIA; AND THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE SHALL APPROVE IN ADVANCE PLANNED VISITS FROM YUGOSLAVIA TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITED STATES. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SHOULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM AND CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF THE PROJECT. REQUESTS FOR TRAVEL APPROVAL SHOULD BE MADE IN A TIMELY MANNER."

C. PAYMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL; WE EXPLAINED THE PROBLEM OF CONVERTING DINARS FROM THE JOINT FUND TO FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL. YUGOSLAV BOARD MEMBERS PROMISED TO CONTINUE CONVERSION PRIVILEGE AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION

IN THE FINANCE SECRETARIAT, AND PRESENT THE BOARD WITH A FINAL DECISION AT THE FALL BOARD MEETING.

D. CONFIRMATION OF BANKING ARRANGEMENTS: THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE CONFIRMED AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS ON JULY 19 APPROPRIATE ACCOUNTS FOR THE JOINT FUND.

E. GRANT DOCUMENTATION: YUGOSLAV MEMBERS OF THE BOARD POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A UNIFORM DOCUMENT FOR ALL AGENCIES. THE BOARD AGREED THAT THE EMBASSY AND FAISECTC WOULD DEVELOP A DRAFT DOCUMENT WITH COMMON ELEMENTS FOR ALL U.S. AGENCIES WHICH WOULD BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND DECISION AT THE FALL BOARD MEETING.

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F. DATE FOR FALL BOARD MEETING: BOARD MEMBERS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE MORE PRODUCTIVE TO HAVE THE NEXT MEETING IN LATE NOVEMBER. WE NOTED ARRANGEMENTS HAD TO BE MADE TO GET THE U.S. DEPOSIT OF ABOUT 64,486,000 ND TRANSFERRED FROM THE YUGOSLAV INVESTMENT BANK TO THE EMBASSY'S OPERATING ACCOUNT AT BEOGRADSKA BANKA. WE ALSO POINTED UP IMPORTANCE OF GETTING NECESSARY GRANT AUTHORITIES

FROM U.S. AGENCIES PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING. DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT THE PROPOSED NOVEMBER DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING WOULD BE SENT TO THE EMBASSY, BELGRADE, TO BE CONVEYED TO FAISECTC.

G. PROJECT REVIEWS: U.S. SIDE EXPLAINED THE TECHNICALITIES RELATED TO NEW-TYPE AGENCY GRANTS HAD CREATED DELAYS IN THE TIMETABLE OF DEPOSIT TO THE JOINT FUND. WE EXPRESSED REGRET FOR THIS DELAY AND ASSURED THE YUGOSLAV BOARD MEMBERS IT WAS DUE TO TECHNICAL AND NOT SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES. WE TOLD THE YUGOSLAV SIDE THE U.S. WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF PROJECTS ALREADY AGREED ON IN WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS PROJECTS PENDING. WE WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER EMERGENCY RELEASES FOR 1973. WE ALSO NOTED THE U.S. WOULD LIKE YUGOSLAV BOARD MEMBERS TO TAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOTE OF NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED AND TO BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM AT THE ALL BOARD MEETING. FINALLY, WE INDICATED WE WERE PREPARED TO REVIEW PROJECTS DECLINED OR NOT RECEIVED. A WORKING GROUP WAS NAMED TO REVIEW EACH INDIVIDUAL PROJECT. THIS REVIEW PROCESS STARTED JULY 18.

THE U.S. SIDE NOTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT REVIEW EXERCISE THAT PROJECTS AGREED ON AND PENDING ALONE EXCEEDED AMOUNT OF PROJECTED DEPOSITS TO THE FUND THROUGH 1977 BY ND 8-MILLION. THIS OBVIOUSLY INDICATED THE DESIRABILITY OF COST MODIFICATION ON THESE PROJECTS, IF ANY RESOURCES WERE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW PROJECTS. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION THIS ISSUE WAS NOT RESOLVED AND IT WAS DECIDED TO REVIEW EACH INDIVIDUAL PROJECT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE TENTATIVE APPROVAL DID NOT IN ANY WAY CONSTITUTE A COMMITMENT IN MEANING OF ITEM 6 OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES (PARA 2.B. ABOVE).

WE COMPLETED THE PROJECT REVIEWS FOR NSF, HEW, AND AGRICULTURE THIS MORNING. IT IS CLEAR FROM THIS PRELIMINARY EXERCISE THAT THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION TO INSURE THAT TOTAL COMMITMENTS WILL BE WITHIN THE LIMIT OF PROJECTED DEPOSITS TO THE JOINT FUND. THEREFORE, WE ARE PLANNING TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING COURSES OF ACTION AT THE BOARD MEETING TOMORROW:

(1) AGREE ON EMERGENCY RELEASES FOR A NUMBER OF PROJECTS FOR 1973;

(2) TO MERELY ENDORSE IN PRINCIPLE ALL OTHER PROJECTS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A COMMITMENT EVEN FOR FINANCIAL PLANNING PURPOSES.

(3) REQUEST AGENCIES AND YUGOSLAV INSTITUTIONS TO REVIEW PROJECTS ALREADY SUBMITTED WITH A VIEW OF REDUCING TOTAL COST. FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF PROJECTS WOULD BE MADE AT THE NOVEMBER

BOARD MEETING.

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